



Cal OES
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

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Tree Mortality Task Force Bioenergy Working Group Agenda

(January 8th, 2016, 11:00 – 12:30)

(CAL FIRE's Director's Conference Room, 15th Floor, 1416 9th St., Sacramento)

(Conference Call Line 916-324-6897)

Action Items

- **Encourage Southern California Edison and San Diego Gas & Power (hold the power contract with Delano facility) to participate in the Working Group**
- **Meet the last Friday of the month (one week plus in advance of the Full Task Force) 10:30 – noon. Optional meeting is the third Wednesday of the month prior to the Biomass Working Group (9:30 – 11)**
- **Establish categories for the status of the existing facilities (i.e., pricing agreement extension, contract extension, expired contract, new MWs, BioMAT program) and place facilities in these categories (Julee develop first draft)**
- **Establish the potential new MWs within each category and a timeline as to when the MW's could go live**
- **Establish a BioMAT sub-working group focused on supporting new facilities and inter-connection issues ; ; this working group will have call(s) between full working group meetings (as needed); members can opt to not participate and still remain active in the full working group**
- **Ed will reach out to relevant utilities to participate on the BioMAT sub-working group by 1/15**
- **Members will review working group objectives and submit proposed edits to Kim and Angie by COB 1/15**
- **Members will review biomass facilities status map and provide edits/corrections to Kim and Angie by COB 1/15**
- **PG&E (Neil) will provide hazardous tree amount estimates, by jurisdiction (private by small industrial and large industrial, etc.) and provide to working group by 1/21**
- **PG&E will report on how they are currently managing cut trees (storing? Final destination?) and plans for managing in the future (as volume grows)**
- **Next meeting agenda – add discussion on funding sources(coordinate these ideas with the Resource Allocation Working Group)**
- **Next meeting agenda – CEC/CPUC will provide an update on what authorities exist to increase the amount of funding made available for bioenergy in all 3 categories (market facilitation, technology and research and development) and provide an estimate (to the extent possible) of when the PON for these funds may be released**



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I. Roll call of Working Group Members and confirm organization/agency lead (Angie)

Name	Agency / Organization
Kim Carr, Glenn Barley, Chris Anthony	Cal Fire
Matt Henigan	Government Operations
Casey Walsh Cady	California Department of Agriculture
Ed Randolph, Maria Sotero, Paul Douglass, Judith Ikle	CPUC
Steven Kelly	Independent Energy Producers Association;
Brett Storey	Placer County;
Rosemarie Smallcombe	Mariposa County Supervisor;
Evan Johnson	Cal Recycle
David Branchcomb	Sierra Pacific Industries
Rich Wade	Board of Forestry
Steve Brink	California Forestry Association
Le-Huy Nguyen, Rizaldo Aldas, Bill Blackburn, Jennifer Campagna	California Energy Commission
Angie Lottes	The Watershed Research and Training Center
Larry Swan	US Forest Service
Julee Malinowski-Ball	California Biomass Energy Alliance
Matt Plummer, Martin Wyspianski, Neil Fischer, Karen Khamou, Anna Folesong, Hugh Merriam, Harold Pestana	PG&E
Staci Heaton	Rural Counties Representatives of California
Debbie Franco, Sandy Goldberg	Office of Planning and Research
Julia Levin	Bioenergy Association of California
Brittany Dyer	Madera County – Assistant to Supervisor
Chris Metzger	Wheeler
Debbie Poochigan	County Supervisor – Fresno County
Christa Darlington	CAPCOA

II. Welcome and Review Working Group Objectives (Kim)

- a. Extend contracts on existing forest bioenergy facilities receiving feedstock from high hazard zones (CPUC).
- b. Ensure contracts for new forest bioenergy facilities that receive feedstock from high hazard zones can be executed within six months (CPUC).



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- c. Initiate targeted renewable auction mechanism and consideration of adjustments to the BioMat Program (CPUC).
 - d. No later than six months after the BioMat program begins, evaluate the need for revisions to the program to facilitate contracts for forest bioenergy facilities (CPUC).
 - e. Prioritize facilitation of interconnection agreements for forest bioenergy facilities in high hazard zones (CPUC).
 - f. Prioritize grant funding from the Electric Program Investment Charge for woody biomass-to-energy technology, consistent with direction from CPUC (CEC).
 - g. Work with bioenergy facilities that accept forest biomass from high hazard zones to identify potential funds to offset higher feedstock costs (CAL FIRE, CEC).
 - h. Work with land managers to estimate biomass feedstock availability, storage locations, and volumes that may be available for use as bioenergy feedstock at existing and new facilities.
 - i. Identify and develop new energy technologies for biomass (e.g. biofuels, etc).
 - j. Create and expand markets for bioenergy by-products (e.g. biochar, heat, etc).
 - k. Provide regular updates at Task Force meetings to ensure effective communication and geographic coordination among all task force groups and stakeholders.
- III. Overview of high hazard zones, existing and planned bioenergy facilities and status (Kim)
- a. Group feedback on information
 - i. Map shows existing bioenergy facility status, planned facilities and tree mortality. Data will be coordinated through the working group and maps will continue to be updated as needed.
 - ii. While the initial focus or anchor point will be on the 6 Southern Sierra Counties and highest mortality areas, opportunities to address capacity will be considered outside of this area.
 - b. To coordinate facility status and other data – send updates to Kim and Angie via email.
- IV. CPUC update on programs and policies identified to support existing and new facilities; discussions and progress made to date; next steps (Ed)
- a. Ed Randolph/Maria Sotero: Broadly go through things they are working on: extensions, procurement, BioMat changes, and interconnection.
 - i. Extensions:
 - 1. First addressing 7 expiring fixed price amendment contracts. PUC is working with PG&E to figure out options and process for doing this.
 - 2. Also looking at extending PPAs, though only 3 with PG&E are expiring this year or next year.
 - 3. Any extensions can be filed via advice letter or an application; one is not necessarily faster than the other, depends on specific circumstances.
 - ii. New Procurement:
 - 1. Initiate a procurement process for existing idle facilities or new facilities.
 - 2. Will require formal commission action or a proceeding.



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3. Could be done through targeted RAM programs, which would have contracts that require terms about the fuel. If so, could use the standard form contract from BioMAT as a template because it will require fewer changes than the existing RAM contract.
 - iii. Changes to BioMAT program:
 1. Will take longer; two projects in planning stage are in the auction queue, no new facilities will come online this year. BioMAT auction process could be accelerated by raising the opening price
 2. PUC is accelerating their process by waiving agenda notice requirements and other things that happen at the end of processes, but do not affect due process, which is constricted by staff resources.
 3. Resources will not be overextended because of the chance for that to cause more delays.
 - iv. Interconnection:
 1. This is complex.
 2. PUC is working with the utilities to address incremental challenges.
 3. This will also require formal commission action such as proceeding.
 - b. Matt Plummer:
 - i. PG&E has an evaluator and staff ready to respond to advice letters so that they can respond quickly.
 - ii. Applications instead of advice letters may be used for some of the above listed actions, because applications can be much quicker, particularly if there are questions about BACT.
 - iii. PG&E has most of the existing biomass power contracts, but if you look at the map it is clear that SCE also needs to engage to manage hazardous trees.
- V. PG&E update on hazardous tree management, storage and facility contracts; next steps (Matt)
- a. Neil Fischer:
 - i. PG&E's vegetation management department is working with the "whereas" clauses numbers 6 and 9 in mind – they are responding to extreme peril and increased risk of wildfire caused by this emergency. Focusing especially on the high hazard areas.
 - ii. Using new technology to identify the trees and execute community based protection projects to identify and remove affected trees to protect public safety
 1. Measuring size of trees and proximity to home and other property,
 2. Managing debris
 - iii. Key differences between 2014 and 2015 is sheer volume – 19,000 vs 30,000 trees; planning to remove 80,000 trees in 2016
 - b. PG&E does not usually own the trees, so they need the permission of the owner to manage the debris. Need to find out how much of the fuel do they control through right of way, and how much is on federal and private lands.
- VI. CAL FIRE update on biomass data and coordination with storage sites; next steps (Kim)

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- a. Draft High hazard zones can be reviewed using the Viewer on the taskforce website. Final zones will be provided in February. Zones and volume of biomass will be an iterative process and about updated quarterly
- b. Storage sites: Regulatory group is primarily responsible for tracking and supporting siting storage areas and the Mapping and Monitoring Working Group will map the sites; our working group will coordinate with the others to identify sites in proximity to bioenergy facilities.

VII. CEC update on EPIC funds for bioenergy; next steps (Le-Huy or other rep)

a. Rizaldo Aldas:

- i. EPIC is the major source of funding.
 - 1. Second Investment Plan is being executed – several biomass energy projects were funded under the First Investment Plan.
 - 2. \$27.5 million available for biomass energy overall. \$5 million was planned to go to woody biomass, CEC is looking into increasing that amount and prioritizing releasing these funds.
- ii. EPIC funds cannot be used for fuel harvest and transport. This is limited by Commission decision.
 - 1. The EPIC part of the Emergency Proclamation is to use funds as intended in the Investment Plan, for research and development of energy technologies and solutions.
 - 2. Applied Research and Development and Technology Development and Deployment are the two categories that are applicable.

b. Responders:

- i. Some R&D money could also be used to look at things like the value of carbon sequestration or other ways that biomass power can monetize benefits, it is unclear if this money will be made available.
- ii. EPIC administrators do have the authority to do some fund shifting (up to 5%) within approved funding categories, but that will be limited by how much has already been assigned.
- iii. Market facilitation funds are also available through EPIC and should be considered for investment in biomass energy.

VIII. Field trip this winter to high hazard zone area; next steps (Angie)

- a. Important for folks to understand the true extent of this emergency by seeing the mortality impacts in the Southern Sierra. Will discuss more at the next meeting.

IX. Meeting Minutes Volunteer (rotate this task?)

- a. To be rotated.

X. Meeting schedule and location (set a standing day/time first week of the month)



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- a. Proposed last Friday of the month, 10:30-noon, following the market development group meeting, and, if needed, third Wednesday of the month 9:30-11 am, before CA Forest BWG meeting.

 - XI. General updates and news related to bioenergy
 - a. None.

 - XII. Review Action Items and prioritize tasks: (action item, who it was assigned to and its status)
 - a. See above.

 - XIII. Closing Comments/Adjournment

Note: Working Group Leaders to present current workgroup priorities and accomplishments at full Task Force Meetings.